

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6665

INFO AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

AMCONSUL LYON

AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

AMCONSUL NICE

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, FR

SUBJECT: MICHEL ROCARD STATEMENT ON CIA DESTABILIZA-
TION PLANS IN FRANCE IF LEFT HAD WON ELECTION

1. SPEAKING IN CORSICA AUGUST 27, PS NATIONAL SECRE-
TARY MICHEL ROCARD SAID "HE WAS SURE THAT THE CIA HAD
PLANS TO DESTABILIZE FRANCE THROUGH ITS REGIONAL CON-
TRADICTIONS IF THE LEFT HAD WON IN 1978". APPARENTLY
REFERRING TO POSSIBLE MANIPULATION OF VARIOUS AUTONOMY
MOVEMENTS SUCH AS THE NATIONAL FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION
OF CORSICA AND THE BRITTANY LIBERATION FRONT, ROCARD
CLAIMED AUGUST 28 TO BE SURPRISED AT THE ATTENTION
GIVEN TO HIS REMARK: "FOR ME IT WASN'T NEW. WE KNEW TWO
YEARS AGO THAT THE CIA WAS INTERESTED IN THIS TYPE OF
PROBLEM. MOREOVER ALL THE AUTONOMISTS KNEW IT, AND THIS
INFORMATION, IMPORTANT AT THE TIME, HAS LOST ALL
RELEVANCE TODAY."

2. EMBASSY HAS REQUESTED THE TEXT OF ROCARD'S STATE-
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PAGE 02 PARIS 28779 291956Z

MENT, BUT IT IS EVIDENT THAT NEITHER ROCARD NOR THE PS
ARE LIKELY TO ISSUE AN OFFICIAL DISCLAIMER. ONLY A FEW
JOURNALISTS HAVE BOTHERED TO ASK EMBASSY'S REACTION.
AUGUST 29 AURORE ARTICLE NOTES THAT ROCARD "REFUSES TO
PROVIDE THE LEAST PRECISION FOR THIS GRAVE ACCUSATION"
WHICH THE US EMBASSY HAS CHARACTERIZED AS A "TOTAL FA-
BRICATION AND AN EXTRAVAGANT ACCUSATION AS WELL AS A

SLIGHT DECEPTION: UNTIL NOW, WE (THE US) HAD CONSIDERED ROCARD A SERIOUS POLITICIAN". (IN FACT EMBASSY SPOKESMAN DID NOT GO QUITE THAT FAR IN DESCRIBING ROCARD.) REMAINDER OF AUGUST 29 PRESS SIMPLY CARRIES ROCARD STATEMENT. WE ARE ALSO TRYING TO REACH ROCARD (WHO IS ON VACATION) DIRECTLY TO SEEK A CLARIFICATION AND SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW.

3. WE FIND THIS STATEMENT ALL THE MORE REMARKABLE COMING FROM ONE OF THE MORE RESPONSIBLE MEMBERS OF THE SOCIALIST LEADERSHIP. WHILE SYMPTOMATIC OF A GENERAL PARANOIA ON THE FRENCH LEFT REGARDING THE US IN GENERAL, THE CIA, MULTINATIONALS, ETC., IN PARTICULAR, IT IS A POSITION USUALLY ASSOCIATED WITH LOWER LEVEL, LESS SERIOUS POLITICIANS. NONETHELESS, PS LEADERS APPARENTLY FIND IT DIFFICULT TO AVOID THE OCCASIONAL GRATUITOUS SWIPE AT THE US (WITNESS MITTERRAND'S RECENT STATEMENT ON THE US DESIRE TO BREAK THE AGRICULTURAL COMMON MARKET) WHICH PLEASES THE MORE RADICAL ELEMENTS OF THE PARTY.
HARTMAN

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